

Health Risk Behaviors Among High School-Aged Youth National and Montana Comparisons of Selected Elements

Sources: 2005 U.S. and 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 2001¹	Montana 2003¹	Montana 2005¹	Montana 2007¹	U.S. 2005¹
Drove a car when they had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days	21.8	20.4	18.5	16.0	11.0
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	21.4	19.4	21.4	22.1	18.4
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	9.0	8.7	9.0	7.8	6.5
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	8.7	7.2	10.2	9.7	6.5
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	5.5	3.4	4.2	4.2	5.4
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	31.6	28.6	30.5	32.8	30.3
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	10.4	9.7	10.3	7.9	8.8
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	66.5	61.0	55.4	52.1	54.5
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	28.5	22.9	20.1	20.0	21.2
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	23.2	17.3	15.2	12.9	13.8
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	14.9	10.8	8.8	8.1	8.8
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	15.7	13.2	14.8	12.9	8.4
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	82.9	81.1	77.8	77.8	74.1
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	54.1	49.5	48.6	46.5	42.8
"Binge" drink (consumed 5 or more drinks at one occasion during the previous 30 days)	41.4	37.3	34.4	32.7	26.3

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 2001¹	Montana 2003¹	Montana 2005¹	Montana 2007¹	U.S. 2005¹
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	46.7	43.9	41.7	39.1	38.2
Are “current” marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	27.1	23.1	22.3	21.0	18.9
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	15.0	13.8	15.4	16.2	12.2
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	12.6	9.3	8.3	4.6	5.9
Ever had sexual intercourse	43.9	43.6	43.6	45.7	44.8
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	30.7	29.9	31.2	31.2	33.3
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	32.0	33.7	29.4	26.0	22.9
Are overweight (i.e., \geq 95 th percentile for body mass index)	6.1	8.1	9.3	10.1	13.1
Are attempting to lose weight	42.0	41.6	42.6	43.6	46.3
Participated in 60 minutes of physical activity* per day on five or more of the past seven days			31.2	44.9	33.9
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	23.5	25.3	26.3	22.2	34.7
Used alcohol before age 13	35.2	30.4	27.8	25.9	24.9
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	25.0	20.7	17.6	14.7	16.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	12.3	11.0	11.2	9.5	9.1
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	5.3	5.9	5.1	5.1	5.8

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¹ These data are statistically valid and can be used to make inferences about the health risk behaviors of all high school students in Montana.

* Physical activity is defined as activity that increases your heart rate and makes you breathe hard.